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COPYRIGHT An Ambassadorship for Admiral Wright

The President's prospective appointment of Admiral Jerauld Wright to an ambassadorship strikes one as an inevitability. The wonder is that the former commander of our Navy and the NATO forces in the Atlantic was not placed earlier in some far capital. He has been out of uniform for three years. And his membership on an advisory board in the Central Intelligence Agency, as important as it is, hardly is equal to his capacity.

As Ambassador to Nationalist China, Admiral Wright would succeed Admiral Alan G. Kirk, who is 73 and has been ill. Each is an expert in amphibious operations. Each gained most of his combat experience in the European Theater of World War II.

There is something a little ironical about sending an "amphib" admiral to Taiwan. The idea is not for the Ambassador to advise Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek on how to land troops on the Chinese mainland, but to make him aware of the irrationality of invasion. An "unleashed" Chiang—if that political misnomer of the Eisenhower years can stand reviving—might set off hostilities that would involve the United States in a most unfortunate way.

Admiral Wright is not among

those United States military men who sometimes have been charmed by the Generalissimo. He is too strong in his own personality to succumb to enchantment. Norfolk knows him as a man of great dignity and attractiveness. His is the ambassadorial manner.

The likelihood of Admiral Wright's assignment to Taiwan is

a reminder that Admiral Robert L. Dennison, his successor as the Atlantic fleet and NATO commander, is about to retire and also is admirably suited to continue to serve his Government in a high place. One would assume that the President, who knows him well, will not wait long to place an office before him.